

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1700 - 2003

**TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT
OF
CORRECTION**

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1700s

- 1796** Tennessee admitted to the Union
- 1799** Act passes providing the death penalty for horse stealing

1800-1850s

- 1813** First act passes to raise money to build a central prison; no public support; concept fails
- 1819** Governor Joseph McMinn recommends that the state fund construction of a central prison; again no public support; concept fails
- 1829** Governor William Hall
Governor William Carroll

Act passes “to provide for building a public jail and penitentiary house in this State”; State-funded

A five-person Board of Inspectors (including the Governor and Secretary of State as ex officio members) is created

- 1831** Tennessee State Penitentiary (TSP) located just south of 7th Avenue and Broadway in Nashville, became operational for both men and women; 65 inmates employed by public works

- 1850s** Inmates employed to build State Capitol

- 1858** Governor Isham G. Harris

TSP moves to Church Street

Governor given power of Executive Clemency

1860-90s

- 1863** Union Army takes over TSP to use as a military prison--all state prisoners were moved to Brushy Mountain

- 1865** Governor William Gannaway Brownlow

Legislature employs three Directors to create and coordinate a convict leasing system



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1870	Convict leasing system begins, leasing inmates to the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company; first work release program in the country	1898	TSP moves to new location in Cockrill Bend; not over 20 percent of the total cost of the new prison was spent for materials purchased outside the state of Tennessee
1871	Governor John Calvin Brown Office of Superintendent of Prisons created	1899	Governor Benton McMillan Legislature approves resolution temporarily housing federal inmates from Tennessee and surrounding states to generate income
1873	Act passes for a new penitentiary for farming and mining at Brushy Mountain	<i>1900-1950s</i>	
1877	Governor James Davis Porter Act passes ruling prison labor will not compete with free-world industry	1900	New building for female inmates is opened within the walls of TSP
1883	Governor William Brimage Bate Act passes prohibiting over 550 men in one prison All prisoners now given physical examinations upon entry into the system as provided by Legislative Act	1902	Board of Prison Commissioners created by Legislature
1885	Act passes "to allow convicts good time in diminution of their sentences"	1904	Suspension-by-thumbs abolished legislatively as a means of punishment for inmates
1890s	Separate wing is built at TSP for female inmates; prior to this, male and female offenders were housed in the same unit	1905	Governor John Isaacs Cox Behavior grading system initiated at Brushy
1891	Governor James Pierce Buchanan Insurrection by miners protesting the use of free inmate labor in mines; free-world miners place inmate miners on train "out of town," causing the creation of the State Militia	1907	Governor Malcolm Rice Patterson Act passes to create a juvenile facility for boys
1893	Convict leasing system is abolished	1908	One 10-year old and one 11-year old boy are committed to the state prison, each to serve 2-3 years for larceny and other related offenses
1895	Brushy Mountain Prison is built in Petros	1911	Tennessee Reformatory for Boys in "Jordonia" opens under Governor Ben Hooper, receiving 11-23 year old males for both determinate and indeterminate sentences Board of three prison commissioners established by Governor Ben Hooper

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| 1913 | Act passes authorizing a parole system and indeterminate sentencing for adult offenders; Act also changes death penalty from hanging to electrocution | | Administration of State Institutions composed of the Governor, State Treasurer, and general manager of State Organizations |
| 1915 | Governor Thomas Clarke Rye

State Reformatory for Girls is founded in Tullahoma by the Tennessee Federation of Women's Clubs

Legislature creates State Board of Controls to manage penal, reformatory, and charitable institutions | 1921 | Governor Alfred Alexander Taylor

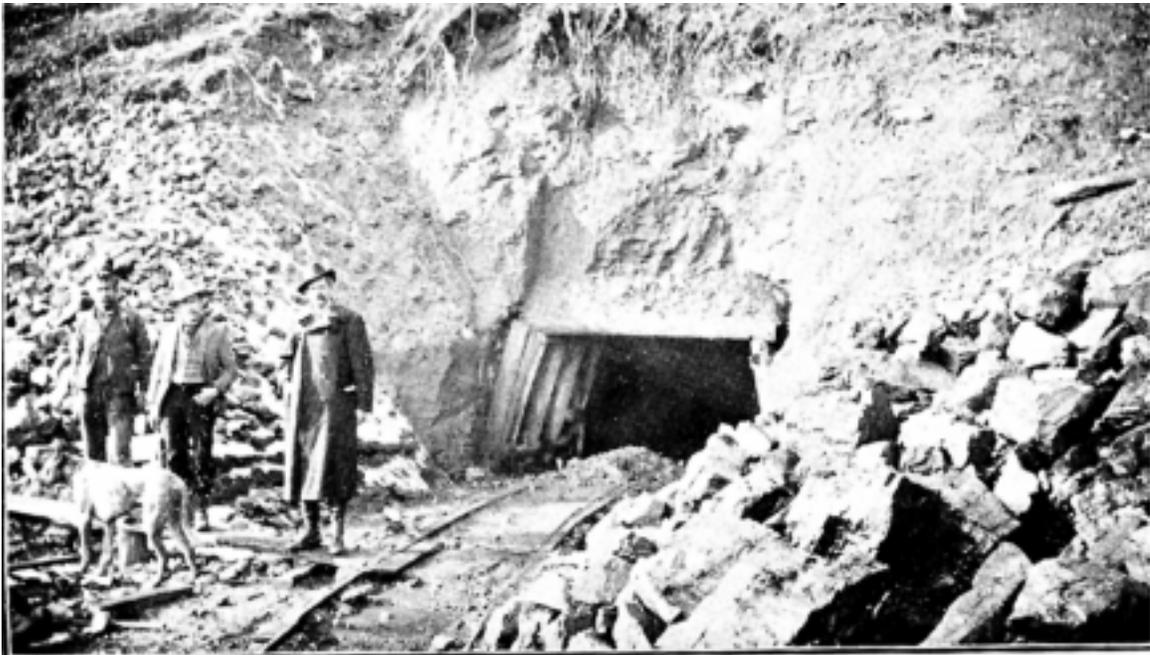
State Vocation School for Colored Girls is founded in Nashville |
| 1916 | First man electrocuted in Tennessee | 1923 | Governor Austin Peay
Commissioner Lewis S. Pope

Administrative Reorganization Act passes, placing the administration of penal, reformatory, and charitable institutions under the newly created Department of Institutions |
| 1918 | Tennessee Reformatory for Negro Boys is founded in Pikeville

State Reformatory for Girls receives its first girls | 1927 | Governor Henry H. Horton
Commissioner Richard Lyle

TSP contracts with state for inmates to make license plates |
| 1919 | Governor Albert Houston Roberts

The State Board of Control is replaced by a Board for the | 1928 | Shelby County Penal Farm is founded as a minimum security facility |
| | | 1929 | Act creates the Advisory Board of Pardons |



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1930	New building for adult female offenders is built, physically separate from TSP, but still on its grounds and administratively dependent	1939	Governor Prentice Cooper Comissioner Andrew T. Taylor
1931	Advisory Board of Pardons creates a system for parole eligibility		Habitual Criminal Act passes
1933	Governor Harry Hill McAllister Commissioner Edwin W. Cocke, M.D.		World War II - Private industry used prison labor
1933-34	New Brushy Mountain Prison is built in Petros		The Department of Institutions and Public Welfare is divided into two departments: Department of Institutions and Department of Public Welfare
1936	Commissioner Barton Brown	1941	Commissioner W. O. Baird, MD
1937	Governor Gordon Browning Commissioner George Cate, Sr.	1945	Governor Jim Nance McCord Commissioner W. O. Baird, MD
	The Administrative Reorganization Act is amended, creating the Department of Institutions and Public Welfare, including Confederate Soldier's Home, School for the Blind, School for the Deaf, Tennessee Industrial School at TSP, the Blind Commission, Clover Bottom Developmental Center, three regional psychiatric hospitals, and the Gailor Center	1951	Boys' Reformatories became State Training and Agriculture Schools
	Act creates Board of Pardons and Paroles; appointments made by the Governor and the Board is chaired by Commissioner of DIPW	1953	Governor Frank Goad Clement Commissioner Keith Hampton
	U.S. Supreme Court rules "no sale of prison-made products to other states for profit" and Tennessee enacts legislation in accordance	1955	Responsibility for mental health facilities is transferred from the Department of Institutions to form the Department of Mental Health
1938	Fort Pillow State Penal farm is founded as a medium security farming facility in Lauderdale County,	1955	Classification System created at TSP
			The name of the Department of Institutions is changed to the Department of Correction (DOC)
		1956	State Training Schools for boys are renamed State Vocation Training Schools for White Boys (Jordonia) and Colored Boys (Pikeville)
		1957	Corporal punishment for juveniles is abolished (reinstated 1957)
		1957	Act establishes the Division of Juvenile Probation

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| 1958 | Statewide Juvenile Probation system becomes operational

Maximum security building, including "electric chair," is built at TSP | | Major changes in Parole Board: 5-member, part-time board; first black is appointed |
| 1959 | Governor Buford Ellington
Commissioner Keith Hampton | 1965 | Juvenile institutions are desegregated and classified by age

Intensive Treatment Rehabilitation Center for juveniles opens in Nashville near "Jordonia," operated by the Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. |
| <i>1960-1980s</i> | | | |
| 1960 | William Tines is the last person executed in the State of Tennessee prior to the Furman Decision | | State prison school is established and accredited |
| 1961 | Division of Adult Probation and Parole are established legislatively

Tennessee Youth Center in Joelton founded as a forestry camp for boys | 1966 | Mining operations at Brushy Mountain abandoned due to safety problems

Cellblocks integrated at all adult institutions |
| 1963 | Governor Frank G. Clement
Commissioner Harry S. Avery

Act establishes Division of Youth Services; provides for an Assistant Commissioner | | Corporal punishment abolished for adult offenders

New Tennessee Prison for Women, Stewarts Lane, becomes operational. Former facility converted to Rehabilitation Center for males (day |



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	program operated by Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation)		testing
			Interstate Compact established
1967	Governor Buford Ellington Commissioner Harry S. Avery	1971	Governor Winfield Dunn Commissioner Mark Luttrell
	DOC Central Office moved to Doctor's Building		Work Release Center opened in Chattanooga
	Work Release is established at Shelby County Penal Farm		Tennessee Youth Development Center (TYDC) founded in Somerville
	Division of Religious Services is created		State Vocational Training School for Boys in Pikeville renamed James M. Taft Youth Center; State Vocational Training School for Boys in Jordonia renamed Spencer Youth Center
	Correctional Rehabilitation Center (CRC) in Nashville opens		
1968	Treatment services initiated at TSP		Turney Center for Youthful Offenders in Only became operational; facility named after Governor Peter Turney, the first governor to advocate habilitation of prisoners and housing juvenile offenders separate from adult offenders
	Vocational Rehabilitation Unit opened		
1969	Commissioner Lake F. Russell		
	Opportunity House, Inc., becomes operational (a half-way house for men in Nashville)	1972	State Vocational Training School for Girls in Nashville reverts to a reception and diagnostic center for juveniles
	3 adult institutions are reclassified: Brushy to maximum security; TSP to medium and Fort Pillow (now named Cold Creek Correctional Facility) to minimum		12-14 year old female offenders transferred to TYDC, making it the first co-educational juvenile correctional institution in state's history
1970	Division of Rehabilitative Services is created legislatively		
	Prisoner Rehabilitation Act of 1970 provides for adult work release		State Vocational Training School for girls in Tullahoma renamed Highland Rim School for Girls
	Act passes relieving Commissioner of DOC as chair Pardons and Paroles Board; Chairman elected by Board members		Act reformulates three-member Board of Pardons and Paroles; Chairman appointed by the Governor; members will now be full time professionals appointed by the Governor
	DOC Central Office moved to Andrew Jackson State Office Building		
	MTSU Diagnostic Center contracted for juvenile offender psychological		Labor problems at Brushy lead to closure of that institution

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<p>Intensive Treatment Rehabilitation Center for juveniles closed</p> <p>June 29, the U.S. Supreme Court rules on <u>Furman vs Georgia</u>, declaring death penalty unconstitutional; inmates under sentence of death were commuted to life in prison</p> <p>1973 Mandatory death sentence imposed for those convicted of first degree murder</p> <p>DOC Central Office moved to First American Center</p> <p>Work Release Unit opened in Nashville (at the old Spencer ITC Unit)</p> <p>1974 Group Homes for juveniles opened in Nashville and Memphis</p> <p>Tennessee Corrections Institute (TCI) established to train DOC employees</p> <p>Mandatory Death Sentence Act of 1973 found unconstitutional</p> <p>Intensive Treatment Unit created at Spencer Youth Center</p> <p>Department embraces regional prison concept and commences construction on new prisons in Memphis and Morristown. The Morristown prison construction was stopped before completion because of community opposition</p> <p>1975 Governor Ray Blanton Commissioner Herman Yeatman C. Murray Henderson replaces Yeatman as Commissioner</p> <p>Procedure changed and Governor appointed a new Chairman to Pardons and Paroles Board</p>	<p>1976 U. S. Supreme Court rules Georgia's death penalty constitutional. Several states follow suit, modeling their efforts after Georgia's.</p> <p>Brushy Mountain reopened</p> <p>Memphis Correctional Center opened (MCC)</p> <p>Ft. Pillow (now Cold Creek Correctional Facility) is reclassified as medium security facility</p> <p>WYDC received Governor's Award for Design Excellence</p> <p>"Sit-down" strike by inmates caused temporary lock-down at Brushy Mountain</p> <p>The department is authorized to establish residential restitution centers</p> <p>1977 10 Group Homes for juveniles approved through LEAA grant</p> <p>Boys' institutions reclassified: under 14 years - Wilder; 14-18 year old property offenders - Spencer; 14-18 year old repeat offenders and those who commit a crime against persons - Taft; TYC still has voluntary commitments</p> <p>Lois M. DeBerry Correctional Institute for Special Needs Offenders opens</p> <p>DOC is empowered to set up demonstration projects involving</p>	<p>TYDC renamed John S. Wilder Youth Development Center (WYDC)</p> <p>Bars removed from windows at Highland Rim</p> <p>Inmate riot at TSP</p>
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inmate labor and private industry to be known as Tennessee Restitution Industries

U.S. Supreme Court rules that death penalty is constitutional, and death penalty is reinstated in Tennessee

1978 7 Group Homes became operational: Knoxville, Lebanon, Oak Ridge, Elizabethton, 2 in Memphis, and the Inman Group Home in Tullahoma)

WYDC stopped receiving girls; all girls are received at and committed to Highland Rim

Board of Pardons expands its membership to five

Corporal punishment is abolished in juvenile institutions; the "cells" at Spencer closed

College programs are set up at Brushy for Roane State Community College and Lincoln Memorial University

1979 Governor Lamar Alexander
Commissioner Harold B. Bradley
DOC Central Office moved to State Office Building

Nashville Work Release unit closed (old Intensive Treatment Center at Spencer) and merged with the Community Rehabilitation Center

Labor dispute at Taft promoted disturbance

Reorganization of the Department

Regional Prison at Cockrill Bend in Nashville opened (Wardens appointed at Bledsoe, Morgan, and Lake Counties Regional Prisons to open in 1980-81)

The computerized Offender Based State Correctional Information System (OBSCIS) becomes operational



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Juvenile status offenders are released from institutions for placement in community-based programs or home

Act passes to separate the Board of Pardons and Paroles from DOC; BOP becomes a five-member autonomous unit

Class-X Crimes bill becomes effective

Wilder Youth Development Center receives certificate of Merit from UT-Martin

Extended furlough system abolished by legislature

Tennessee Reception and Guidance Center for Children is officially named as such

Five-year residency requirement for Commissioner of Correction is removed

Sale of prison-made goods expanded to include private, non-profit organizations

Three more group homes became operational: Morning Star, Madisonville and Bradley County

Fire at Oak Ridge Group Home temporarily closes down that home

Act passes prohibiting status offenders from being committed to DOC until after third adjudication

Commissioner is authorized to contract with local governments when prisons become overcrowded

The Department of Correction Supervision and Rehabilitation Fund is established

1980 Promulgated comprehensive set of policy and procedures which guide management of TDOC

1981 A volunteer prisoner work program for minimum risk prisoners is established

The County Correctional Incentive Act passes, with the Commissioner responsible for implementing

Implementation of the "Plan of the 1980s"

1982 The disbursement of funds for the Supervision and Rehabilitation Fund and Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund is transferred from the Department of Revenue to the Department of Correction

The department is required to undertake a study and report to the Joint Governmental Operations Committee on: (1) reorganizing and staffing the department, (2) increasing work opportunities for inmates, (3) improving performance and morale of correctional officers and other staff

1983 Commissioner William Long

Federal Court appoints a Master to oversee correction of unconstitutional conditions that were found to exist in Grubbs vs Bradley

Highland Rim School for Girls closed and Spencer Youth Center becomes coed the summer of 1983

1984 Commissioner Ernest Pellegrin

Tennessee Correction Academy becomes operational at site of former Highland Rim School for Girls

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- 1985** Commissioner Stephen H. Norris
- Prison riots throughout system during the summer months, causing millions of dollars in damage.
- General Assembly holds First Extraordinary Session on Corrections in late 1985, resulting in many significant changes through the Comprehensive Corrections Improvement Act of 1985: Select Oversight Committee on Corrections is established; Community Corrections programs are initiated; random drug testing of inmates begins; Sentencing Commission is established.
- Regional concept is born. TDOC facilities fall under one of three regions, East, Middle, or West. Administrators are appointed for each region.
- The Division of Youth Services is abolished within DOC, and the Tennessee Department of Youth Development is created; all juvenile responsibilities and functions are transferred from DOC
- Riverbend Maximum Security Institution becomes operational
- Sentencing Reform Act of 1989 is passed by the General Assembly
- 1987** Governor Ned R. McWherter
- 1989** Commissioner W. Jeff Reynolds
- State and Local Correction Reform Act of 1989 provides mechanism for the State to reimburse counties for housing felons



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<p>Wayne County Boot Camp (Special Alternative Incarceration Unit) begins operation</p>	<p>1994</p>	<p>Funding was approved to add 1,000 beds to prison system</p>
<p>1990s</p>		
<p>1990 West Tennessee High Security Facility becomes operational</p>		<p>The Department of Correction's final two institutions passed their American Correctional Association accreditation audits. This made the department the first adult correctional system in the United States to have all of its programs nationally accredited.</p>
<p>1991 Northeast Correctional Center becomes operational</p>		
<p>1992 Commissioner Christine J. Bradley</p>	<p>1995</p>	<p>Governor Don Sundquist Commissioner Donal Campbell</p>
<p>South Central Correctional Center becomes operational under the management of Corrections Corporation of America in March. This facility is the test case for privatization of prison operations in Tennessee</p>		<p>Major departmental reorganization; regional concept was abolished</p>
<p>Wayne County Boot Camp begins accepting offenders up to 35 years of age</p>	<p>1996</p>	<p>Tennessee Correctional Work Center in Nashville opened (300 beds)</p>
<p>Lois M. DeBerry Special Needs Facility becomes operational in June replacing DeBerry Correctional Institute</p>		<p>Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary celebrates 100 years</p>
<p>Tennessee Offender Management Information System (TOMIS) implemented</p>		<p>Victims' Offender Information Caller Emissary (VOICE) system goes on line</p>
<p>Northwest Correctional Center becomes operational in May</p>		<p>DOC and other state departments established a presence on the World Wide Web</p>
<p>Tennessee State Penitentiary closes in June</p>		<p>Construction began on 1536 medium security beds in Lauderdale County, adjacent to West Tennessee High Security Facility</p>
<p>1993 Department of Correction released from <u>Grubbs</u> suit; required to report on health services for one year; permanent injunction entered prohibiting TDOC to house inmates in the old Tennessee State Penitentiary</p>	<p>1997</p>	<p>Funding was approved for new prison (\$54 million)</p> <p>10th Anniversary of Community Corrections Program</p> <p>Determinate Release legislation enacted; all one and two year felons to be released to probation on their release eligibility date unless opposed by sentencing court, etc.</p>

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Public Chapter 222 created a special technical violator unit for probation offenders committed to TDOC to be placed, at the department's discretion, in an alternative sentencing program without age and program restrictions

Creation of Sex Offender Treatment Board and Provider Network and DNA testing of all sex offenders initiated as required by legislation

Public Chapter 457 required applicants for out-of-state probation or parole to enroll or complete a mental health program if convicted of certain violent crimes

Legislation passed in 1997 that established the Tennessee Internet Crime Information Center (TCIC). The Center will provide online registries of sex offenders, missing children, and out-of-state parole and probation supervision

Eight institutions were consolidated into four correctional complexes, each operating under a single administrative structure

Departmental management was restructured, and a program planning section created

Educational programming in institutions was restructured

TDOC entered into contract with Hardeman County to house 1500 adult male medium security offenders at the Hardeman County Correctional Center (HCCC), managed by Corrections Corporation of America

Facility expansions at Wayne County Boot Camp, Tennessee Prison for Women, and DeBerry Special Needs Facility were completed adding 648 new beds to TDOC capacity

Minimum security annex at Mark Luttrell Reception Center (MLRC) was converted from male to female offenders; the male pre-release program was transferred to Cold Creek Correctional Facility

The Tennessee Correctional Work Center was closed upon the opening of beds at the Wayne County expansion and completion of renovations at MLRC's annex

Knoxville Community Service Center and Chattanooga Community Service Center began phasing down operations for early 1998 closure due to cost of operation and availability of more cost efficient minimum custody beds at other TDOC institutions. KCSC's pre-release program was relocated to Brushy Mountain Correctional Complex and Northeast Correctional Complex

Legislation was introduced during the 100th General Assembly in 1997 to allow expanded privatization of prison operations; Legislation was deferred until the following session

Over 1,925,400 hours of community service work were completed by inmates, probationers, and community correction offenders at an estimated savings to the public of \$9,146,056.00; figure represents an increase of over 17 percent above community service work performed in 1996

TDOC's drug and alcohol testing program was greatly expanded in response to federal and state efforts to combat drug abuse related crime

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The General Assembly approves a bill allowing members of a victim's immediate family to witness an execution in an area separate from other witnesses or through a closed circuit television system

The Governor signs into law legislation requiring any inmate who is less than 21 years of age to undergo HIV testing during TDOC classification with or without the inmate's consent unless the inmate has been previously tested upon arrest for certain sexual offenses.

1998 Tennessee's state felon population increases to more than 21 thousand, including those housed in local jails. TDOC facilities hold more than 16 thousand

The department contracts with Hardeman County for an additional 512 beds at the Hardeman County Correctional Facility

The department begins a medical copayment program requiring inmates to pay \$3 for a self-initiated sick call visit to the health care staff

Legislation to expand privatization of prison operations is withdrawn from consideration

The legislature establishes lethal injection as the method of execution for any person who commits an offense on or after January 1, 1999, for which such person is sentenced to death.

Public Chapter 1028 requires all persons convicted of any felony offense on or after July 1, 1998, to provide a biological specimen for DNA analysis

Legislation passed to transfer the duties and responsibilities relating to probation services and community grant programs from the TDOC to the Board of Paroles. The act also changes the name of the Board of Paroles to the Board of Probation and Parole

1999 The department is recognized nationally for its cost saving measures in recycling. The department wins the Environmental Protection Agency's National Partnership Award for its recycling efforts

To address gang activity within the prison population, the department opens the first Security Threat Group unit at Southeastern Tennessee State Regional Correctional Facility

Tennessee's felon population tops 22 thousand

Mark Luttrell Reception Center in Memphis is fully converted to a female facility and renamed the Mark Luttrell Correctional Center

Construction of 1536 medium security beds adjacent to the West Tennessee High Security Facility in Henning is completed as the Cold Creek Correctional Facility, formerly Fort Pillow Prison and Farm, is closed. Along with the minimum security annex at Cold Creek, the two facilities are combined under one administrative structure and renamed the West Tennessee State Penitentiary

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2000

The department installs external heart defibrillators in all facilities for the benefit of inmates, staff, and visitors. The devices are used on two inmates in the first six months, and credited with helping save their lives

Community work crews continue to provide valuable savings to local governments and non-profit organizations. Annually, more than 1,000 offenders provide an average of nearly 1.4 million hours of labor for estimated savings of approximately seven million dollars to those groups

The department is honored with its second Environmental Protection Agency's National Energy Partnership Award

The Governor signs legislation making lethal injection, rather than electrocution, the standard method of execution for any person sentenced to death. An inmate under the sentence of death for an offense committed prior to January 1, 1999, will be executed by lethal injection unless the inmate waives his/her right to be executed by that method. If waived, the method of execution would be by electrocution.

Also becoming law is an act adding to the list of authorized witnesses for an execution. The additions may include one member of the defense counsel chosen by the condemned person and the Attorney General and Reporter, or his or her designee

The first execution of a death row inmate in 40 years. Robert Glen Coe is the first to be executed in Tennessee by means of lethal injection for the aggravated kidnapping, aggravated rape, and murder of eight year old Carrie Ann Medlin

Tennessee's felon population levels off, showing a percentage decline overall. TDOC facilities hold approximately 17 thousand inmates with another 5,500 in local jails

The Tennessee Volunteer Resource Board is created by the legislature. The new board expands the functions of the prior volunteer advisory board to include parolees as well as inmates and probationers

2001

An expansion phase is completed at the Tennessee Prison for Women in Nashville, increasing the facility to 775 beds.

Director of Pre-Release and Transition Services appointed by Commissioner of Correction to coordinate statewide pre-release programming.

Implementation of a statewide contract to provide health care for the State's inmate population.

Completed double celling at South Central Correctional Facility, expanding capacity by 170 beds.

2002

Whiteville Correctional Facility opens in West Tennessee, creating an additional 1,536 medium security beds for housing male inmates. The facility is managed by CCA.

Tennessee's Felony Offender Information Lookup, FOIL, was launched on October 31st. The new on-line feature allows the public to search for an inmate's location, inmate number and early release date.

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State launches the new pre-release program, "Tennessee Bridges", with a 1 million dollar federal grant awarded to the Board of Probation and Parole and the Department of Correction

Governor Phil Bredesen appoints former U.S. Attorney, Quenton I. White, as the new Commissioner of Correction.

2003 Commissioner appoints a full-time Victim's Notification Coordinator in an effort to work more diligently with those directly impacted by crime.

Community work crews pass the 10 million hour mark. The work crew program was re-organized in 1996. In October of this year, those crews had completed more than 10 million hours of community service for city and county governments as well as non-profits across the state, saving millions of taxpayer dollars.

Plans are finalized to expand the Morgan County Correctional Complex, adding 838 beds and nearly 138 new jobs. Construction is expected to begin on the project in the fall of 2004. Inmates from the century old Brushy Mountain Penitentiary will be transferred to the new facility once it's complete.

References:

Various DOC Annual Reports located in Tennessee State Archives

Individual institutional histories

History of Penal Institutions, 1813-1840 (Nashville)

Tennessee Blue Book